

January 2004
Fact Sheet

Proposal to Clean up Shallow Soil at the Former Whittier Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) Site Whittier, California



PLEASE REVIEW AND COMMENT ON PLAN TO CLEAN UP CHEMICALS IN THE SOIL

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments with in the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



**California
Environmental
Protection Agency**



We invite you to review and comment on a proposed plan to clean up chemicals in the shallow soil at the Former Whittier Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site at 11815 and 11819 East Hadley Street, in Whittier. The proposed cleanup plan, called the Draft Removal Action Workplan (Draft RAW), calls for the removal of soil that has chemicals left over from the former gas plant and other industrial operations. You are also invited to review and comment on a Draft "Negative Declaration." This is our finding that the proposed cleanup actions would not have a significant negative impact on the environment.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Our mission is to protect human health and the environment by overseeing the investigation and cleanup of the site. The Southern California Gas Company (The Gas Company) will pay for and perform the cleanup.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

We will accept written public comments from January 20 through February 18, 2004. The purpose of the public comment period is to give you an opportunity to tell us what you think about the Draft RAW and Draft Negative Declaration. Please see page 3 of this fact sheet for information on where to find the documents and how to submit comments.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site consists of 21,000 square feet of commercial property surrounded by other commercial properties, light industry, and storefront businesses. It consists of two L-shaped buildings: one at 11815 and one at 11819 East Hadley Street. The site is owned by a car and truck towing and storage business, which operates out of 11819 East Hadley Street. The 11815 East Hadley property is leased to a business that refurbishes used commercial and industrial equipment.

WHAT CHEMICALS WERE FOUND

Tests of the soil at the site found chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs), and metals. The main contaminant of concern at the site is PAHs. PAHs come from crude oil, and also may be formed when organic materials such as coal, oil, fuel, wood or even foods are not completely burned. VOCs include common solvents (such as paint solvents) that evaporate at temperatures normally found at ground surface and at shallow depths. TPHs are found in gasoline and diesel.

NO IMMEDIATE RISK TO THE PUBLIC

According to a health risk study completed for this project, the site is not an immediate risk to the public. The soil is covered with concrete and asphalt, which acts as a barrier that protects the public from exposure to the chemicals.

HOW THE CHEMICALS GOT THERE

An oil-fueled MGP facility was operated at this site from 1903 to 1916. In 1916 natural gas was introduced into the area and parts of the gas manufacturing plant were used in connection with the service of natural gas. The rest of the plant was dismantled in 1920. By 1925 the entire site had been converted to a storage yard consisting of only three buildings. After it was redeveloped, the property was used as a tire storage facility. From 1960 the site was leased to various companies that used it for light furniture manufacturing, furniture storage and refinishing, printing, film production, and gift basket assembly. In 2000, the site was sold to its present owners.

WHY AND HOW IT WILL BE CLEANED UP

The purpose of the cleanup is to remove the contaminated soil from the site. The Draft RAW describes the proposal for the cleanup. The proposed cleanup plan is to excavate(dig up) approximately 6,000 tons of contaminated soil. Soil removal by excavation is a common practice at sites with shallow soil contamination. After the soil is dug up, it will be taken to a state-approved treatment facility. Following the excavation, samples will be collected to verify that the cleanup goals are met. If the goals have not been met, more soil will be removed until they are met.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AND WORKERS DURING CLEANUP

To protect on-site workers and the surrounding community during the cleanup, field work will be conducted according to an approved DTSC Health and Safety Plan that we have developed for the site. The Health and Safety Plan includes controls to minimize dust, odor, airborne particles, and noise. Here are some of the actions we will take:

- Spraying the soil with water when loading it onto the trucks to control dust
- Covering exposed soil with foam or plastic sheeting during periods of inactivity
- Stopping excavation during high winds
- Covering the truck-loading areas with plastic to keep trucks from tracking contaminated soil off site
- Covering truck beds and brushing off soil from truck tires before leaving the site
- Using established truck routes to minimize travel through residential areas

About 14 truckloads of contaminated soil will be removed over a 4 to 6 week period. The soil removal will take place in March 2004. Traffic delays may occur while trucks are removing soil from the site or bringing in clean soil. To reduce traffic delays, a flag person will be on duty to direct traffic. Field work will take place during daylight hours from Monday through Friday and should last four to six weeks. Occasionally, field work may occur on Saturdays during daylight hours.

HOW YOU CAN GIVE US COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

Before we can begin the cleanup, we need to let you review the clean up plan and get your comments. After the comment period ends, we will evaluate your comments and make any necessary changes to the plan.

The 30-day comment period begins on January 20, 2004 and ends February 18, 2004. During this time you can review and send comments and/or questions to us on the proposed cleanup and on the Draft Negative Declaration. Please send your written comments to Lori Parnass, DTSC Project Manager, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA, 91201. You may also e-mail your comments to lparnass@dtsc.ca.gov. All comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by February 18, 2004.

WHERE YOU CAN REVIEW THE DRAFT RAW AND DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the "Draft Removal Action Workplan for the Shallow Soil at the Former Whittier MGP Site." The Draft Negative Declaration and other documents related to this site are available for your review at the following locations:

Whittier Public Library

Reference Desk

7344 S. Washington Avenue

Whittier, California 90602

(562) 464-3450

Hours: Weekdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Evenings Monday through Wednesday
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. by
appointment only

Department of Toxic Substance Control

1011 North Grandview Avenue

Glendale, CA 91201-2205

Phone: (818) 551-2800

If you plan to visit the DTSC office, please call Jone Barrio at (818) 551-2952 to make an appointment.

Who to Contact

We encourage community involvement. If you have any questions about the cleanup or any aspect of the project, please contact:

Lori Parnass, DTSC Project Manager

(818) 551-2856

e-mail: lparnass@dtsc.ca.gov

Derrick Alatorre, DTSC Public Participation Specialist

(714) 484-5474

e-mail: dalatorr@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer

(818) 551-2176

e-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD users can use the California Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Project Manager, Ms. Lori Parnass at (818) 551-2856.



Mr. Derrick Alatorre
Public Participation Specialist
State of California
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

La informacion en el español incluyo

**INSIDE: INFORMATION ON PROPOSAL TO CLEAN UP SHALLOW SOIL AT
THE FORMER WHITTIER MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT (MGP) SITE
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA**